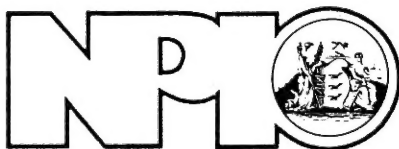


NEWARK
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FOR RELEASE AFTER 12 noon

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LIGHTHOUSE SERVICES RESUME FEEDING HOMELESS

Mayor Sharpe James, city officials and members of the clergy presided today at ribbon cutting ceremonies marking the reopening of the Lighthouse Community Services Program, which has served the City's homeless for more than a decade.

When the program, run by Bishop James Parrott in the South Park Lighthouse Temple on Broad Street, was closed down in February, Mayor Sharpe James stepped in and vowed to help.

Today, as more than 100 persons came to the city-owned building at 487 Washington Street for a meal the Mayor remarked, "This is a dream come true for all of us who are involved in trying to improve the quality of life for all Newark citizens.

"Just three months ago, this building was an empty tire warehouse, and today, with the help of both City employees and outside contractors, we have a modern, comfortable facility, complete with new kitchens, bathroom and showers," said the Mayor.

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LIGHTHOUSE AD 1

"This building and the services provided by Bishop Parrott and his group stand as a beacon of hope and offer a more comfortable life for so many of our residents who are less fortunate than we are. While it may be they today, it could easily be we tomorrow," James stated.

He noted that the program provides more than just food to the needy. "Under Bishop Parrott's guidance and that of his daughter and son, the Reverends Joan and Stephen Parrott, the homeless are offered spiritual guidance, direction and the encouragement to improve their lives."

Two of the individuals employed by subcontractors in renovating the new building were formerly served by the Bishop's program, said James.

Parrott, the program's founder, stressed that without the Mayor's intervention last March, the entire project was in danger of folding.

His program, which until February had fed over 500 persons a day, was evicted from its South Broad Street site by the Presbytery of Newark, owner of the church, after engineers for the organization found the building structurally unsafe.

"This is a good day and time of jubilation," said the Bishop at the opening of the new facility. "The Mayor's ears were open to our plea, his heart was set to do the right thing and his hands pointed his staff in a liberating direction to step in and save the day for the disenfranchised of the great City of Newark.

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LIGHTHOUSE AD 2

"This center stands as a testimony to the courage, vision and commitment of the Mayor and City Council to truly make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate," Parrott declared.

The brick and block, two story building, encompasses almost 10,000 square feet. It is equipped with central air and heating and new plumbing, according to Marshall Cooper, the City's head of property management.

He said the structure was "completely renovated" to include a new roof, all new sheetrock throughout, new mechanical systems, new flooring, five new bathrooms and shower facilities at a cost of approximately \$260,000.

Cooper said the kitchen cabinets, stove and floor were donated.